

Burwood Apartments
210 West McMillan Street, #6
Cincinnati, OH 45219-1361
21 October 1994

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Harold Weisberg:

After a long hiatus, I have begun my own armchair research into the Kennedy assassination. I obtained your address from the bibliography of High Treason, although your name has been familiar to me for years. I am 31 years old, and was less than six months old when John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

Please forgive the disorganization of this letter. I am not working from a prepared outline or notes, I am just sitting down at the computer and typing questions as I think of them. I have obtained paperback copies of two of your books, Whitewash and Oswald in New Orleans, and have seen you on television specials about the Kennedy and King assassinations.

One of my questions deals with a person from Oswald's Marine Corps background, whom I remember you mentioning only once in Oswald in New Orleans. The person is Kerry Thornley, a Marine Corps buddy of Oswald's at the Marine base at Santa Ana, California. Thornley is unusual in that he is the only person who wrote about Oswald before 22 November 1963. Just this week, a copy of The Idle Warriors, his novel about Oswald, arrived in the mail for me here, and I have been reading it voraciously.

I do remember that the late Jim Garrison gave Thornley quite a rough time in his own investigation in New Orleans. I am wondering what information you have on Thornley--I have read odd articles about him in the computerized editions of the Atlanta newspaper, and read a bizarre essay of his, "Is Paranoia a Form of Awareness?", in a recent book called Secret and Suppressed. It seems that he has been pretty much down on his luck for much of the past decade or so. In addition, I have been trying without success, literally for years, to obtain a copy of his small book, Oswald. If you know anyone who has a copy they are willing to sell, tell me when you write to me!

A fellow amateur researcher has told me that he heard mention of a diary kept by David Ferrie that disappeared shortly after he died. I admit that I have not read Oswald in New Orleans thoroughly, and its lack of an index is a hindrance, but I have never heard any mention of a diary. Also, I am at a loss to understand Ferrie's primary source of income for much of the time of his life from his dismissal from Eastern Airlines until the time of his death.

Now comes the question I should have started this letter with: On the 30th anniversary of the murder, our local PBS television station, WCET-TV, Channel 48, broadcast NBC News's original coverage of the assassination for six hours, in "real time." (In other words, if David Brinkley looked at a studio clock and said, "It's now almost 4 o'clock Washington time," that is what time it was at that moment.) Needless to say, I video-taped this event--consisting mainly of news and information by Frank McGee, Chet Huntley, and Bill Ryan. The broadcast began at 1:53 p.m. EST, and not 10 minutes into it, NBC switched to a reporter at WBAP-TV in Fort Worth named Charles Murphy, who announced that "Dallas police have taken a young man into custody." He was described as "neatly dressed" and "vehemently protesting his innocence, and says he has witnesses to prove that he is innocent." This is too soon for the person arrested to be Lee Harvey Oswald. I have not heard of this person before or since the broadcast I am describing.

Should you desire, I can make an audio tape of this part of the broadcast for you--unfortunately, I lack the equipment to copy the video tape, and it is one cassette I do not loan. Have you any information about this arrest? Later on, the Fort Worth newscaster mentions that "the car wanted in the assassination of President Kennedy has been picked up in Fort Worth", something which was news to me as well.

I mentioned this in a letter to Harrison Livingstone over the summer, and his reply, in a letter from Baltimore dated 26 July, he said, "It will take me awhile to surface what this is about, but your possession of the tape could be important in that respect."

Please write to me at the above address. I do plan to purchase Case Open very shortly, and hope that it will relegate Posner's book to the fiction section of the bookstore. (I have not yet bought Case Closed; I will only buy it second-hand, because then no royalties would go to Posner from me.)

I thank you for plowing through this ambiguous letter, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Paul T. Evans

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